

# Arizona Dental Sealant Program

*a preventive dental program*

## **Objectives:**

- To increase the percentage of children with dental sealants.
- To reduce the proportion of children who have ever had tooth decay.

## **History:**

The Program began in 1987 through a grant from the Flinn Foundation. Later that year, additional funds from Ronald McDonald's Children's Charities allowed the Program to continue. In July 1989, the sealant program was added to the State budget allowing the Program to continue with a full-time dental hygienist as its coordinator and funding for supplies, travel, equipment and contract personnel.

The application of dental sealants became a program delivered by use of portable dental equipment serving school children on their school campus. The Office was involved in cooperative efforts with other health agencies to promote the use of dental sealants and provide technical and educational assistance where needed.

## **Current Program**

### **Funding:**

The Program has multiple funding sources including:

- Maternal & Child Health Block Grant
- Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant
- State appropriations
- Reimbursement from AHCCCS-contracted health plans

## **Eligibility:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade children without private dental insurance who have erupted, non-restored, non-decayed first and/or second permanent molars.
- Public and charter schools with 65% or higher free and reduced school meal program participation may apply for the Program.

## **Program Staff:**

- *Az Dental Sealant Program Manager:* administers program statewide.
- *Local Program Coordinators:* coordinate Program with schools & dental personnel.
- *Licensed Dentists:* provide diagnostic screenings to determine which children should receive sealants.
- *Registered Dental Hygienists:* provide dental sealant applications.
- *Dental Assistants:* provide aid to dentists and hygienists during screenings and provisions of sealants.

A unique feature of the Program is the utilization of dental hygiene and assisting students from various programs statewide. The externship provides students with a clinical public health experience.

## **Child Involvement:**

Children with parental consent obtain a dental screening by the dentist. Each screening takes about 2 minutes. Parents receive notification of their child's need for sealants and general oral health status. Eligible students in need of sealants usually receive them on a separate day. This simple procedure takes about 15 minutes per child.

## **2002 Program Statistics:**

- 8,938 children in 106 schools in 6 counties participated in the Program.
- 5,664 children received 22,228 sealants.

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